

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

NIC-01 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /097 W

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R 291645Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7105

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12346

E.O 11652; GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GW. BU, CZ, HUS, WB

SUBJECT: FRG-CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS: NO MOVEMENT

VISIBLE

REF: BONN 12189

1. DESPITE SOME ACTIVE SPECULATION TO THE CONTRARY IN THE FRG PRESS IN RECENT DAYS, THERE HAS BEEN NO PROGRESS TOWARD SOLUTION OF THE FRG-CZECHOSLOVAK DIFFERENCES SINCE THE LAST ROUND OF BILATERAL TALKS ENDED ON AUGUST

22. PRESS REPORTS THAT FRANK HAS RECEIVED AN INVITATION TO GO TO PRAGUE TO PREPARE FOR THE CHANCELOLOR'S VISIT IN EARLY SEPTEMBER ARE, THE FONOFF TELLS US, SIMPLY NOT TRUE. THE FACT IS THAT THE GERMANS TOLD THE CZECHS THAT IT IS UP TO THEM TO INDICATE WHEN THEY ARE READY TO

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RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE FRG COMPROMISE PROPOSALS.

2. THE FONOFF TOLD US THAT THE CZECHS PRESENTED THEIR VIEWS ON THE LEGAL ASSISTANCE ISSUE TO THE FRG TRADE MISSION IN PRAGUE ON AUGUST 28. WHAT THEY IN FACT DID WAS PROPOSE NEGOTIATION OF A FORMAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE FRG, WHICH CONSIDERS SUCH AN AGREEMENT UNNECESSARY. ONE FONOFF SOURCE SAID THAT THE CZECHS MAY HAVE BEEN MISLED INTO THINKING SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE BY TALKS IN PRAGUE BETWEEN HIGH-LEVEL CZECH PARTY FUNCTIONARIES AND A VISITING SENIOR SPD DEPUTY WHO APPARENTLY GAVE SOME FALSE SIGNALS.

3. MEANWHILE, CHANCELLERY STATE SECRETARY GRABERT STOPPED IN MOSCOW ON AUGUST 27 AND HELD TALKS WITH DEPUTY FONMIN KUZNETSOV. GRABERT, WE ARE TOLD, PRESENTED INTER ALIA THE FIRM FRG POSITION ON THE LEGAL ASSISTANCE/ WEST BERLIN ISSUE. ACCORDING TO MINISTER BAHR, WHO MET WITH THE THREE ALLIED AMBASSADORS IN BONN ON AUGUST 28. THE SOVIET REP WAS NOT ENCOURAGING IN HIS RESPONSE. HE SAID THE FRG WAS CREATING AN ARTIFICIAL PROBLEM AND URGED THAT THE ISSUE BE SETTLED IN PEACE AND QUIET AFTER RELATIONS ARE NORMALIZED WITH THE CZECHS, BULGARIANS AND HUNGARIANS. GRABERT REPORTEDLY TOLD KUZNETSOV THAT THIS HAS BEEN THE FRG APPROACH WITH THE POLES AND IT HAS SIMPLY NOT WORKED OUT TO FRG SATISFACTION.

4. COMMENT. THE FRG FONOFF IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY SKEPTICAL THAT ANY EARLY MOVEMENT ON THE SOVIET SIDE IS LIKELY. THE GENERAL FEELING IS THAT IT MAY TAKE SOME MONTHS TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE. THIS IS BAHR'S FEELING AS WELL, AS HE INDICATED TO THE AMBASSADORS. HE ALSO REFLECTED THE FEELING ONE DETECTS MORE AND MORE FROM THE GERMAN SIDE, I.E., THAT THE FRG CAN AFFORD TO WAIT AND THAT IT IS UP TO THE SOVIETS AND EE'S TO ADAPT TO THE GERMAN POSITION. HILLENBRAND

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